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INFLUENTIAL ZEN MONK AND PEACE ACTIVIST PASSES AWAY

Thich Nhat Hanh, whose reach within Buddhism is seen as second only to the Dalai Lama, died at the age of 95

NOMINATED FOR NOBEL BY MARTIN LUTHER KING

In the early 1960s, the Vietnamese monk travelled to the US, where he taught at Columbia and Princeton. In 1966, he met civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr and called him a 'Bodhisattva'. The monk's efforts to promote reconciliation between communist North Vietnam and the US-backed South impressed King and he nominated Nhat Hanh for the Nobel Peace Prize | P11

HELPED SPREAD MEDITATION IN THE WEST

- Barred from home due to his call for peace, the monk spent more than three decades in France. During his stay in the West, Nhat Hanh set up meditation retreats around the world
- Allowed into Vietnam in 2005, ties again soured after he called for an end to the communist government's control over religion

>100 books

WRITTEN BY THE MONK, MOST OF THEM ON MEDITATION AND FINDING INNER PEACE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

EC extends ban on road shows till Jan 31

Some curbs eased; physical meetings with 500-people cap allowed from Jan 28 for Phase 1 and Feb 1 for Phase 2

KUMAR VIKRAM @ New Delhi

THE Election Commission on Saturday extended the ban on physical rallies and road shows till January 31 but gave some relaxation for physical public meetings of political parties and contesting candidates for Phase 1 of the Assembly elections from January 28 and Phase 2 from February 1. The commission also increased the limit of five persons for door-to-door campaigning to 10.

The decision to extend the ban was taken following a review meeting that the EC had with the Union health secretary and chief secretaries, chief electoral officers and the health secretaries of the five poll-bound states. After taking into consideration the inputs and ground reports from these officers, the commission deliberated on requirements of the campaign period for Phases 1 and 2 where the candidate lists will be finalised on January 27 and January 31, respectively.

The commission decided to allow physical public meetings in designated open spaces with a maximum of 500 persons or 50% of the capacity of the ground or the prescribed limit set by state disaster management authorities, whichever is fewer. The EC has also allowed video vans for publicity with the usual Covid restrictions at designated open spaces.

Political parties and contesting candidates shall ensure compliance with Covid-appropriate behaviour and guidelines and the model code of conduct on all occasions during the activities connected with elections, the poll panel said. It shall be the responsibility of the concerned officer to identify and notify the designated spaces in advance for the aforesaid purposes, the commission added.

The poll panel also reviewed the vaccination status and action plan for expeditiously completing inoculation for first, second and booster doses for eligible persons among polling personnel.

CEC Sushil Chandra along with Election Commissioners Rajiv Kumar and Anup Chandra Pandey, accompanied by the secretary general and concerned deputy election commissioners, participated in the review meeting.

BATTLEGROUND U.P.

- A day after hinting that she is the party's CM face in UP, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra makes a U-turn. "I said that in irritation because you all were asking the same question again and again"
- Akhilesh Yadav makes official decision to contest from family stronghold of Karhal, promises 22 lakh IT jobs for youth
- Amit Shah begins door-to-door campaigning from Kairana, where there was an alleged exodus of Hindus before 2017. Meanwhile, the JD(U) decides to go solo in UP

EXPRESS READ

Global crypto market suffers $1-trillion loss

New Delhi: Bitcoin as well as other digital cryptocurrencies crashed to their lowest level on Saturday, with the continuing meltdown wiping out over $1 trillion from the global crypto market value. Bitcoin was hovering at $35,000 per coin and the largest digital asset by market value has lost more than 40 per cent since reaching its peak in November 2021. P12

WITH THIS ISSUE

CRYPTOMAN RISES
PLUS 12 PAGES
MAGAZINE

DEVIL IN THE DETAILS

With the BCCI closing the registration for IPL 2022, a look at some of the key points about the upcoming mega auction

33 RETAINED /DRAFTED

With the existing eight teams retaining 27 players, and the two new teams drafting three each, as many as 1,214 players have expressed an interest in taking part in the auctions

₹72 cr

Punjab Kings is the team to retain the least number of players, two, and will go into the auction with ₹72 crore in their purse

318 As many as 318 overseas players have registered for the auction, with the highest of 59 players from Australia, followed by South Africa (48) and West Indies (41). A maximum of 60 overseas players could get picked in the auction, with 10 already retained and drafted by the teams

BIG NAMES

David Warner, R Ashwin, Kagiso Rabada, Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan, Quinton de Kock, Faf du Plessis, Dwayne Bravo, Trent Boult and Pat Cummins are top draws

MISSING OUT

Ben Stokes, Chris Gayle, Jofra Archer, Chris Woakes, Mitchell Starc and Sam Curran are among the overseas stars who have opted out citing various reasons P13

CM will meet Oppn leaders to discuss water issues with TN

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday said he will hold an all-party meeting in the first week of February to discuss with Opposition leaders the water disputes with Tamil Nadu.

After holding a virtual meeting with his cabinet colleagues, experts and senior counsel representing the state on inter-state river disputes, Bommai said the Karnataka government has already raised objection to the second phase of Hogenakkal drinking water project and inter-linking of rivers by Tamil Nadu.

"We have already filed petitions before the Supreme Court against Tamil Nadu's projects and appealed to the Central Water Commission not to approve them. We are putting up a strong legal fight," he said.

The meeting on Saturday discussed cases related to Krishna and Cauvery river basins and Mahadayi project. Another meeting will be held by January-end to discuss these issues further, he said. "We will discuss water dispute cases with water resources and law ministers. We will decide on measures to be taken to implement projects in the interest of the state. We will formulate our stand after the all-party meeting in February," he added.

Saturday's meeting was attended by Water Resources Minister Govind Karjol, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister JC Madhu Swamy, Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar, Advocate-General Prabhuling Navadagi, senior advocates Shyam Diwan and Mohan Kataraki.

NO HIKE IN MILK PRICE, POWER, WATER TARIFFS

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai clarified that the government does not have any proposal to increase water and power tariffs and milk prices as demanded by the departments concerned and Karnataka Milk Federation.

Smoke billows out from the 18th floor of Kamla Building on Saturday | P11

Inferno kills six in Mumbai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

THE early morning calm at Tardeo in central Mumbai was shattered around 7 am following a massive fire at an upscale 20-storey building that left six people dead and 29 injured on Saturday.

According to fire brigade officials, a fault in the air-conditioning unit of a flat caused the blaze, which quickly engulfed the 18th floor of Kamala Building, perhaps due to the strong sea breeze. Thirteen fire engines and seven jumbo tankers had to be rushed to douse the fire.

Residents of the building said they heard a loud sound followed by black smoke and recalled a frenzy among them to get to safety. "We heard a big noise and rushed outside. There was smoke coming out of some floors above us. We immediately rushed downstairs and came into the open area," a resident said.

CONTINUED ON: P8

120 forest staffers start tiger census at Bandipur

BOSKY KHANNA @Bandipur Tiger Reserve

IT was an experience like no other for the staffers of Bandipur Tiger Reserve, who kickstarted the most-sought-after tiger census, a day ahead of the schedule on Saturday.

The staff was jittery initially despite undergoing training for a month, as all the data has to be uploaded on the M-stripe app and two of their colleagues have tested positive for Covid.

"Our morale is not down, and nothing can beat our spirit. We have waited all this while for the census. As Covid cases are rising, we had decided not to take any volunteers this time for their and our own safety," said a forester.

On the first day, 120 staffers started the exercise from 6 am and foot patrolled 37 beats, covering five ranges. Even as no carnivores were sighted directly, they sighted elephant and gaur herds.

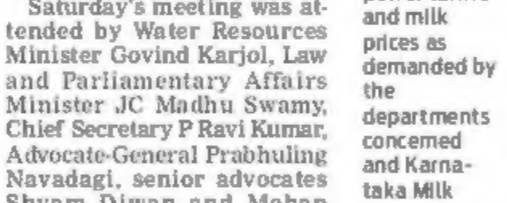
The population of herbivores has improved and it's a sign that the prey base is good in the reserve. This is a crucial part of the line survey and direct sign survey assessment, which is being held till February 7, Chief Conservator of Forests BTR Karikalan said. P5

6 CRORE
NUMBER OF TESTS DONE BY K'TAKA

State stands third highest in the country with 6,01,14,815 Covid-19 tests, both Rapid Antigen and RT-PCR, conducted as on Saturday | P3

NATIONWIDE	JAN 21	JAN 22
Fresh cases	3,47,254	3,37,704
Recoveries	2,51,777	2,62,675
Deaths	703	488

KARNATAKA	JAN 21	JAN 22
Fresh cases	48,049	42,470
Recoveries	18,515	35,140
Deaths	22	26



GANDHI'S FAVOURITE HYMN

'Abide with me' dropped from Beating Retreat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE hymn *Abide with me*, which endeared itself to Mahatma Gandhi and has been a part of the Beating Retreat ceremony since 1950, will not be played this year. All the tunes in this year's list are of Indian origin, according to a brochure released by the Army on Saturday.

Abide with me has been replaced by the popular patriotic song *Ae mere watan ke logon*, written by Kavi Pradeep to commemorate the sacrifices made by Indian soldiers in the 1962 India-China war. In 2020 too, there were reports that the tune would be dropped but no such decision was taken.

The soothing hymn was written by Henry Francis Lyte in 1861 and it was set to tune by William Henry Monk. The retreat tune will continue to be *Sare jahan se accha*.

Twitterati reacted sharply to the news. "Gandhi ji's favourite hymn dropped from Beating Retreat. There is no end to the hate," said one. "New India, No Amar Jyothi, no Abide With Me during the Beating Retreat. Sirkoi BJP," Congress leader Ajoy Kumar tweeted.

The move to drop the hymn comes days after the decision to merge the Amar Jawan Jyoti flame at India Gate with the eternal flame of the National War Memorial.

A total of 44 buglers, 16 trumpeters and 75 drummers from six bands of the Army, Navy, Air Force and central armed police forces will be performing at this year's ceremony.

Beating Retreat is a centuries-old military tradition of troops disengaging from battle at sunset. As soon as the buglers sounded the retreat, the troops ceased fighting, sheathed their arms and withdrew from the battlefield.

Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports
Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Re-Opening of
MODERNIZED GOVT. FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL, JAKKUR
Declaration of 75 Nethaji Amrutha Schools
on the eve of 125th Birthday of Nethaji Subhash Chandra Bose
Dr. K.C.Narayana Gowda, Hon'ble Minister for Sericulture, Youth Empowerment and Sports participating in State Level 'Yuvajanotsava' Programme.
Inspection of Runway Works
Inauguration of Helitourism and other Infrastructure works at Jakkur
Training of 75 Pilots
Unveiling of GFTS Logo
Inauguration of Siddhi Sports Training School and Drive for Women's Self-Defense Training
Declaration of Nethaji Amrutha Schools & Inauguration of Modernized Govt. Flying Training School, Jakkur
Sri Basavaraja S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Karnataka
Unveiling of Twin Engine Flight:
Sri Rajeev Chandrasekhar
Hon'ble Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Electronics & Information Technology of India
Inauguration of Helipad, Lounge and Other Infrastructures:
Sri R. Ashok
Hon'ble Minister for Revenue
Unveiling of GFTS Logo
Dr. K.C. Narayana Gowda
Hon'ble Minister for Sericulture, Youth Empowerment and Sports
Inauguration of Training of 75 Pilots:
Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan
Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, IT BT and Science & Technology, Skill Development
Inauguration of Women's Self-Defense Training:
Sri Araga Jnanendra
Hon'ble Minister for Home
Inauguration of Siddhi Sports Training School:
Sri B.C. Nagesh
Hon'ble Minister for Primary-Secondary Education and Sakala
Inauguration of Helitourism:
Sri Anand Singh
Hon'ble Minister for Tourism
Presided by:
Sri Krishna Byregowda
Hon'ble MLA, Byatarayanapura Constituency
Date: 23-01-2022, 4.00 p.m.
Venue : Govt. Flying Training School Premises, Jakkur
All Hon'ble Ministers and All Hon'ble MLAs & MLCs of Bangalore Urban Jurisdiction
Dr. H.N. Gopalakrishna, IAS
Commissioner,
Dept. of Youth Empowerment & Sports
Dr. Shalini Rajanish IAS
Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt.
Dept. of Youth Empowerment & Sports
As is enshrined in our Constitution, "to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture" - is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.